

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-11 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits.

The amendments made herein to the claims do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, claim 1 has been amended to overcome certain 35 USC § 112, second paragraph concerns noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. Support for the amendment to claim 1 occurs in the application at page 5, line 24 to page 6, line 23, and at page 8, line 17 to page 9, line 21.

Regarding the amendment to claim 2, this amendment simply removes a redundancy with claim 1 as currently amended. Similarly, the amendments to claims 3 and 8 simply provide proper antecedent basis for a term utilized therein.

Finally, regarding the amendment to claim 11, support for this amendment occurs in original claims 12 and 13, as well as in the original specification at page 10, lines 12-14.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, based upon an allegation of non-enablement. Further, claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph based on an allegation of indefiniteness. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of these rejections are respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

First, concerning the rejection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein said cleaning sheet contains an air-laid nonwoven fabric and said low-friction area comprises a film or a nonwoven fabric." In the outstanding Office Action at paragraph "2." the Examiner clearly indicates that the specification is enabling for a cleaning sheet that comprises "a cleaning area that is a nonwoven fabric made by air-laying and a low-friction area that comprises a film". Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph is required.

Concerning the outstanding rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that each of pending claims 1-11 as currently drafted, particularly and distinctly set forth the inventive discovery, which the Applicants regard as their own. The statute (35 USC § 112, second paragraph) requires no more.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph is required.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-224895 in view of JP 10-060761. Further, claim 12 has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same references, further in view of JP 2000-328415. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

First, as noted previously, each of claims 12-13 have been cancelled and their limitations are now recited in claim 11. However, claim 11 also recites the limitation of "the cleaning sheet is attached to a cleaning tool which comprises a flat head having a flat base and a stick handle connected to the head". This limitation recited in claim 11 is nowhere taught, disclosed, or otherwise rendered obvious by any of the three Japanese cited references being relied upon by the USPTO. Absent such teachings, disclosure or motivation in the cited art to arrive at the present invention as claimed, it follows that the Examiner's outstanding rejection of claim 11 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-224895 in view of JP 10-060761 and/or JP 2000-328415 is not sustainable.

Further to the above, it is noted that each of the references being relied upon by the Examiner to reject claims 11 and 13 or claim 12, in no way provide for, or otherwise teach or disclose the use of a nonwoven fabric, which is air-laid, having a fineness of the fibers of 23 to 200 dtex, as is recited in the present invention.

Based upon the above considerations, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections under 35 USC § 103(a) is required.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims 1-11 are allowed and patentable under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

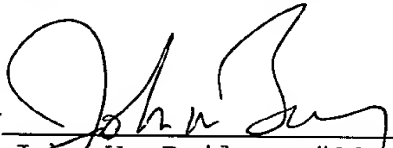
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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